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04 JAN 2008

In re Application of : DECISION ON
Williams et al :
PCT No.: PCT/CA2004/001698 :
Application No.: 10/573,571 :
Int. Filing Date: 27 September 2004 : PETITION UNDER
Priority Date: 25 September 2003 :
Attorney's Docket No.: 85128-1202 :
For: LIQUID HUMAN ... POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL : 37 CFR 1.47(a) & 1.137(b)

This is in response to the "PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.47(a) & 1.137(b)" filed on 04 December 2007. The \$200.00 petition fee has not been paid in full.

BACKGROUND

On 27 September 2004, applicants filed international application PCT/CA2004/001698, which claimed priority of an earlier U.S. application filed 25 September 2003.

On 27 March 2006, applicants filed a Transmittal Letter for entry into the national stage in the United States of America. Filed with the Transmittal Letter was, inter alia, the requisite basic national fee. No executed oath or declaration from the inventors accompanied the Transmittal Letter.

On 08 November 2006, the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) mailed a "NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)" (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) which informed applicant, inter alia, that an "Oath or Declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a), and (b), identifying the application by International application number and international filing date" must be submitted within two months from date of mailing or by 32 months from the priority date, whichever is later, in order to avoid abandonment of the national stage application.

On 04 December 2007, petitioner filed the present petitions under 37 CFR 1.137(b) and 37 CFR 1.47(a) accompanied, inter alia, an unexecuted Declaration.

DISCUSSION

37 CFR 1.137(b):

A grantable petition to revive an abandoned application under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by (1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application; (2) the petition fee as set forth in § 1.17(m); and (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in § 1.20 (d)) required pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

Applicants have satisfied requirements (2), (3), and (4) under 37 CFR 1.137(b) but not requirement (1).

Applicants have not provided: (1) the proper reply that is a properly executed declaration by at least the signing joint inventors

Applicants have provided: (2) the petition fee set forth in § 1.17(m) and (3) the proper statement under 137(b)(3). In this application, no terminal disclaimer is required.

Accordingly, the petition is not deemed to satisfy requirements (1), (2), (3), and (4) under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

DECISION

The petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

37 CFR 1.47(a):

A petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) must be accompanied by (1) the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(g), (2) factual proof that the missing joint inventor refuses to execute the application or cannot be reached after diligent effort, (3) a statement of the last known address of the missing inventor, and (4) an oath or declaration by each 37 CFR 1.47(a) applicant on his or her own behalf and on behalf of the non-signing joint inventor.

Furthermore, section 409.03(d) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) **Proof of Unavailability or Refusal**, the relevant sections states, in part:
REFUSAL TO JOIN:

A refusal by an inventor to sign an oath or declaration when the inventor has not been presented with the application papers does not itself suggest that the inventor is refusing to join the application unless it is clear that the inventor understands exactly what he or she is being

asked to sign and refuses to accept the application papers. A copy of the application papers should be sent to the last known address of the nonsigning inventor, or, if the nonsigning inventor is represented by counsel, to the address of the nonsigning inventor's attorney. The fact that an application may contain proprietary information does not relieve the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant of the responsibility to present the application papers to the inventor if the inventor is willing to receive the papers in order to sign the oath or declaration. It is noted that the inventor may obtain a complete copy of the application, unless the inventor has assigned his or her interest in the application, and the assignee has requested that the inventor not be permitted access. See MPEP § 106. It is reasonable to require that the inventor be presented with the application papers before a petition under 37 CFR 1.47 is granted since such a procedure ensures that the inventor is apprised of the application to which the oath or declaration is directed. *In re Gray*, 115 USPQ 80 (Comm'r Pat. 1956).

Where a refusal of the inventor to sign the application papers is alleged, the circumstances of the presentation of the application papers and of the refusal must be specified in a statement of facts by the person who presented the inventor with the application papers and/or to whom the refusal was made. Statements by a party not present when an oral refusal is made will not be accepted.

Proof that a *bona fide* attempt was made to present a copy of the application papers (specification, including claims, drawings, and oath or declaration) to the nonsigning inventor for signature, but the inventor refused to accept delivery of the papers or expressly stated that the application papers should not be sent, may be sufficient. When there is an express oral refusal, that fact along with the time and place of the refusal must be stated in the statement of facts. When there is an express written refusal, a copy of the document evidencing that refusal must be made part of the statement of facts. The document may be redacted to remove material not related to the inventor's reasons for refusal.

When it is concluded by the 37 CFR 1.47 applicant that a nonsigning inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in the statement of facts in support of the petition or directly in the petition. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the petition or in any statement of facts, such evidence should be submitted. Whenever a nonsigning inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the petition.

Petitioner has satisfied item (2) of 37 CFR 1.47(a). However, items (1), (3)-(4) have not been satisfied.

Regarding item (1), petitioner has not completely paid the petition fee of \$200 under 37 CFR 1.17(g) because only \$130.00 has been submitted.

Regarding item (2), in this case, DR. Martin Williams has sufficiently demonstrated that a complete copy of the application papers were mailed to the non-signing inventor, Ashley Martin Williams, on October 1, 2007, and that he has refused to sign the required papers.

Regarding item (3), petitioner has not provided a statement of the last known address of the non-signing joint inventor.

Regarding item (4), has not provided an executed declaration signed by the signing joint inventors.

Consequently, the petition does not satisfy all the items under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

CONCLUSION

The petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

If reconsideration of the merits of the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) and 37 CFR 1.137(b) are desired, applicant must file a request for reconsideration within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this Decision. Any reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a) and 37 CFR 1.137(b)." Extensions of time are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, Office of PCT Legal Administration, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, with the contents of the letter marked to the attention of the Office of PCT Legal Administration.



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